

REMARKS

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent in person interview held on August 3, 2006 with Applicants' representative. During the interview, proposed amendments to the independent claims were discussed, as well as the cited art and rejections of record. It was concluded during the interview that the proposed amendments appeared to productively advance the claims over the art of record subject to additional review of the cited prior art and an updated search, as appropriate.

The claims, as presented herein, reflect the proposed amendments as discussed during the interview. Specifically, independent claims 1, 20, 34 and 37 have been amended, and new dependent claim 41 has been added.¹

The Office Action, mailed June 6, 2006, considered and rejected claim 1-40. Claims 1-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis et al. (U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0029254).²

As discussed during the interview, the claimed embodiments of the present invention are directed to a methods and computer program products for allowing a variety of applications to initiate communication with a contact by utilizing a centralized store of contact information. As recited in independent claim 1, for example, a plurality of contacts are created with contact information that can be utilized by the various applications to initiate network communication with the plurality of contacts, and the information is stored in a centralized contact store accessible to a computing system. An application may then make a request to the contact store, in response to user selection, for access to a contact and its corresponding contact information, and that access is then provided through one or more interfaces. The ability of the applications to then retrieve the contact information and utilize the information to initiate network communication with the contact is then enabled.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a computer program product which includes computer-executable instructions for implementing a method corresponding to the method of claim 1. Independent claims 34 and 37 are directed to a method and computer program product,

¹ Support for the claim amendments and new claims is found, by way of example and not limitation, in the disclosure found in paragraphs 105, 129, 138, 142, 144, 145, 159 and 163 of Applicant's originally filed application, as discussed during the interview.

² Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

respectively, for implementing a similar method in which contact information is also modified. Dependent claim 41 further recites an act in which the contact information in the contact store is filtered by any of a variety of different criteria.

As further discussed during the interview, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is neither taught nor suggested by the art of record. For example, Brown discloses a personal information management system in which a person can maintain one or more user profiles that include personal information about the user on a personal, portable device such as a smart card device. (¶¶ 29, 58). The user can store any of a variety of types of information about the user, including financial information, address information, passwords, favorite websites, and a listing of contacts (including associated names, phone numbers, and email addresses). (¶¶ 58-62; Figures 8A-8D). Each of these types of information is accessible to an application which displays it to the user within a user display of the management system. (¶ 64). This type of information may then be used by the user to initiate a variety of transactions (e.g., purchases from a website, emailing a contact, and the like). (¶¶ 61, 62).

While Davis generally describes these various applications for displaying information to the user within the context of the user display, Davis fails to teach or discuss applications which access, retrieve, and utilize contact information to initiate network communication with a particular contact stored in a centralized management system, as claimed in combination with the other recited elements. In fact, it appears that Davis contemplates that the sole purpose of the applications is to access and display this information, so that the user may then use the displayed information.

Accordingly, while Davis discloses various applications for accessing information about a user or a user's contacts, Davis fails to disclose a centralized store of contacts which is accessible to a plurality of applications that access contact information, retrieve contact information, and use the contact information to initiate communication with a particular contact, as recited in combination with the other claim elements.

As further noted during the interview, the cited art also fails to teach or suggest wherein contact information in a centralized contact store is filtered as claimed in the present application. For example, Davis discloses that contacts may be assigned and displayed based on their membership within a group. (¶ 62). Davis fails to disclose, however, that any contacts are filtered to display only some of the stored contacts by using a filter applying criteria other than group or directory membership such as: name, phone number address, keyword, online status,

application capabilities, communication device capabilities, communication frequency, last selected contact, geographic location, emotional status, communication device status, and contact persona.

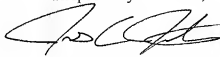
Accordingly, and for at least the foregoing reasons as well as the others discussed during the interview, Applicants respectfully submit that Davis fails to teach or suggest methods and computer program products for managing contacts as recited in the pending claims.

Although the foregoing arguments are specifically related to the claims 1, 20, 34, 37, and 41 it will be appreciated that, for at least the foregoing reasons, all of the other rejections and assertions of record with respect to the dependent claims are now moot, particularly when considering the combination with elements recited in the corresponding independent claims.³ Therefore, the dependent claims need not be addressed individually.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims 1-39 and 41 are neither anticipated by nor made obvious in view of the cited art of record. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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³ It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicants acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicants reserve the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicants specifically request that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.